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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1963.

I

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B.,B.Sc.,D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:
A.F.J. Webb, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1963.

General Statistics

Estimated Mid-Year Population		6,310
Area in Acres		3,312
Rateable Value		£155,340
Product of Penny Rate		£623
Number of Inhabited Houses		1,890
Comparability Factors	Births	1.23
	Deaths	0.32

Vital Statistics

Births

Number of Registered Live Births, 1963.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	50	48	98
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	52	51	103

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.16
Comparable Birth Rate	19.8
Birth Rate of England & Wales	18.2

One female legitimate still birth was registered.

Deaths

The total deaths registered was 168, 69 male, 99 female, giving a crude death rate of 26.6 per 1,000 population. Of these 102 cccurred in St. Lawrence's Hospital. The corrected death rate for the Borough was 8.5 per 1,000 population. The death rate for England and Wales was12.2 per 1,000 population. One female neo natal death was registered.

Death by Cause, 1963.

	Male	Female
Heart Disease	15	17
Cerebrovascular Disease	2	7
Respiratory Disease	2	4
Cancer	2	6
Accident	3	1
Other Causes	6	1
	30	36

Deaths by Ages

	Male	Female
0 - 1 yrs.	-	1
1 - 10 yrs.	1	-
11- 20 yrs.	-	-
21- 40 yrs.	1	1
41- 60 yrs.	6	7
61- 70 yrs.	12	10
71- 80 yrs.	8	5
80 +	2	12
	30	36

11. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital Services

The East Cornwall Hospital in the town provides out-patient facilities for General Medical, Surgical and Orthopaedic needs, together with some 28 beds for in-patient treatment. The main hospital serving the district is the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, to which the majority of problems and serious casualties are referred. A new out-patient and casualty department is to be built in the St. Lawrence's Hospital, since the premises at the East Cornwall are no longer adequate. This is included in the extensive modernisation programme at St. Lawrence's Hospital which caters for the Mentally ill for almost the whole of the County of Cornwall. Maternity and Gynaecological services are provided at Redruth and Plymouth Hospitals, with out-patient departments at St. Austell and Wadebridge. Maternity Homes at Launceston (Old Tree) and Liskeard (Trebarras) provide beds for confinements in which home arrangements are not suitable.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory at Truro is used for all normal sampling.

Local Authority Services

Ambulance

The County Council has a Main Ambulance Station in the town, all vehicles being under radio control. This station covers the whole of the Eastern portion of the County. The service is manned full-time and provided an adequate service during the year.

Mother and Infant Welfare

Supervision for home confinements is provided by family doctor and midwife. Two district nurse/midwives were employed during the year, conducting 53 home confinements. Mothercraft classes are held in the Council's Narisa Hall, by a full-time health visitor. An infant welfare centre, held twice monthly is also available to children up to 5 years of age. The services provided are protective inoculations and advice and instruction on the problems of infancy and early childhood. The average number of attendances during the year was 31.

The full-time health visitor sees the children from 0 - 5 years in their own homes, giving advice and assistance on problems as they arise.

District Nursing

Two full-time district nurse/midwives are employed in the town for home nursing. Some part-time assistance is also given.

Vaccination & Immunisation

Protective inoculations are available at family doctors, infant welfare centres, at schools and include protection against diphtheria, whooping cough tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis. Yellow fever vaccine is available at Truro. The proportions of children reaching the age of one in 1962 who were protected were:-

Diphtheria Whooping Cough Tetanus	69.1%
Smallpox	8.4%
Poliomyelitis	60.7%

School Health Service

The severe weather of early 1963 demonstrated clearly some of the many sanitary dificiencies of the older schools in the town. The remote toilets, exposed plumbing inefficient heating systems were quite unable to compete against the low temperatures experienced at that time. Needless to say the new school had no problems. The general standard of physical development found at routine insepction was satisfactory and few significant defects were recorded.

111. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

The North Cornwall Water Board is the authority responsible for the Town's water supply. The source at St. Breward is still in use, and only a subsidary supply is taken from the Board's De Lank supply. The small reservoir on the Beacon is still uncovered, though chlorination at this point maintains a sterile supply. Twenty one samples of piped water were submitted for bacterial counts, and two taken on the same day (2.11.63) produced unsatisfactory results. Subsequent checks produced good samples. The remainder were sterile. Samples of raw water showed one of the sources at St. Breward to be heavily contaminated. The supply during the year was adequate. Pressure to the higher parts of the town has been improved by the installation of a booster.

The supply is screened, but not filtered, and has a low PH.(5.5), is plumbo solvent and is believed to have a low fluoride content. Lead is not used in service piping. The majority of households have indoor piped water. About 50 still have outside or unpiped supplies.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal

The reconstruction of the Scarletts Well Sewage Works commenced this year will bring all the Council's works up to date. The old sewers present the remaining problem, but here a scheme is being prepared to separate storm from foul water, and to prevent the seepage of subsoil water in to the sewers. The final scheme should make the Borough's systems completely in line with modern requirements.

Refuse Disposal

The site at Dragon Pits is rapidly becoming filled and the possibilities of extension or a new site are being explored. No complaints were received during the year, although the site is only partially controlled. The new Dennis Paxit collecting vehicle put into service this year has improved the efficiency of collection considerably.

Rodent Control

No serious infestations by rats or mice were recorded during 1963, and all sewers were baited and reported clear. The Rodent operator attended a refresher course run by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Number of Properties Inspected		1,156
Number of Infestations		
Rats	Major	7
	Minor	3
Mice	Major	Nil
	Minor	11

Caravan Sites

(Control and Development) Act, 1960.

There are two licensed caravan sites in the borough, the one at Dunmere being partly residential is well provided with necessary services. The Cooksland site has few requirements, but is not extensively used.

Public Health Inspection

The Assistant Public Health Inspector, Mr. Trebilcock, left the Borough during the year. It was not possible to replace him during this period and Mr. Webb is to be congratulated in providing the necessary supervision in addition to his many other duties.

Summary of Inspections

Council Properties	408
Private houses	281
Food Premises	76
Slaughterhouses	254
Others	160

Nineteen informal notices were served in relation to defects found on complaint, producing satisfactory results. No formal notices were served. The Pet Shop licence was renewed and two licences were issued under the Waste Food Order, 1957, Section 1V.

Housing

The rate of house building in the Borough has been quite phenomenal for a Town of this size. The Council completed during the year, 5 units of accommodation, and has under construction at present a further 57 in Downing Street, Meadow Place and Halgavor. There are proposals for a further 50 - 60 units in Rhind Street and Midway Road. Private development has resulted in the building of 223 houses, with a further 60 under construction.

Under Slum Clearance procedures, 10 houses were demolished and 4 closed. Standard Grants or Improvement Grants were issued for 11 houses.

Food & Drugs

Ice Cream. No new licences were issued during the year for the sale of ice-cream. Three distributors of milk were registered.

Slaughter of Animals

The two privately owned slaughterhouses operated satisfactorily during the year. All the slaughtered animals were inspected as were those at St. Lawrence's Hospital. In accordance with recent regulations all carcasses inspected are now marked with the Council's stamp.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	254	14	556	432
Number Inspected	254	14	556	432
All diseases except T.B. & Cysticercosis				
Whole Carcasses	-	-	2	3
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	22	-	20	18
Tuberculosis Only				
Whole Carcass	-	-	-	-
Part or Organ	-	-	-	21
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-

Factories

Industrial development continued in 1963. The Co-operative Society have their Baking Distribution Depot in the Town, and have proposals for a distribution warehouse in Dunmere Road. The South Western Electricity Board propose to establish their Central Area Offices and Depot at Lostwithiel Road.

Forty five factories are registered, all of which were inspected. Sanitary defects were recorded in four premises, in two by the Public Health Inspector and in two by the Factories Inspector. Defects were remedied promptly.

Prevalence & Control of Infectious Diseases

The notified infectious diseases during 1963 were Measles 167, Erysipelas 2, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1. All measles were notified in the last quarter. There were no cases of dysentery reported from St. Lawrence's Hospital.

Routine vaccination against tuberculosis (B.C.G.) was offered to children admitted to Secondary Schools. A high acceptance rate was obtained. Few positive tuberculin reactors were determined, and in these no incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis was discovered at X.Ray nor within their families. A further reduction of the number of registered cases by 3, occurred during the year. Twenty three now remain.

In concluding my report I should like to thank the members of the Council and the Staff for their continued assistance during the year.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

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